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OLC 71-2082

6 December 1971

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with Senator Stuart Symington re DDCI

1. In a chance encounter with Senator Symington, he called me aside to ask if I had any word on the appointment of a new DDCI. I said I had none and expected none since this was a Presidential prerogative and I assumed would be handled by the White House. Senator Symington said he thought it essential that the Deputy Director have the full support and approval of Mr. Helms--indeed that Mr. Helms himself should select his Deputy, and if he was being selected on any other basis, Symington would like to know about it so he could register objections.



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2. Senator Symington went on to reiterate his well-known views about the danger of a military man being appointed Deputy and directing the day-to-day operations of the Agency. I told him that I had heard Mr. Helms himself state that he could not legally abrogate his responsibility as head of the CIA, and if he found he couldn't carry out all his new responsibilities and at the same time run the Agency, he would either ask for help or resign. Senator Symington said under no circumstances should the Director resign--he was the only person in the Administration who was trusted on the Hill and if he were to turn the Agency over to White House appointees there would be no reliable and objective authority on critical intelligence matters.


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## Distribution:

Original - O&amp;M (DDCI)

1 - Sen. Symington

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JOHN M. MAURY  
Legislative Counsel~~SECRET~~

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